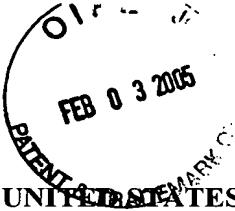


Docket No. 247394US6YA



SPW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Steven T. FINK

SERIAL NO: 10/764,456

GAU: 1762

FILED: January 27, 2004

EXAMINER:

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVED FASTENING HARDWARE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

**REFERENCES**

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed in the attached International Search Report dated January 24, 2005 and listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**RELATED CASES**

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s), published application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. In accordance with the waiver of 37 CFR 1.98 dated September 21, 2004, copies of the cited pending applications are not provided. Cited published and/or issued patents, if any, are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**CERTIFICATION**

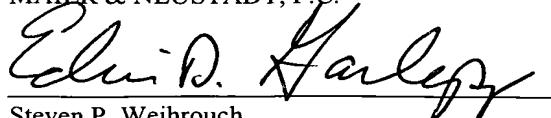
- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Form PTO-1449 (Modified)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 247394US6YA		SERIAL NO. 10/764,456		
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT Steven T. FINK				
		FILING DATE January 27, 2004		GROUP 1762		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	AA	2002/0018902 A1	02/14/2002	Tsukatani et al.		
	AB	2002/0086501 A1	07/4/2002	O'Donnell et al.		
	AC					
	AD					
	AE					
	AF					
	AG					
	AH					
	AI					
	AJ					
	AK					
	AL					
	AM					
	AN					
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	AO	JP 2002-110547	04/12/2002	Japan (w/ English Abstract)		XX
	AP					
	AQ					
	AR					
	AS					
	AT					
	AU					
	AV					
<b>OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>						
	AW					
	AX					
	AY					
	AZ				<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached	
Examiner				Date Considered		
*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						